

Port Orford Free Press

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Free Speech?

There are humanoids in this town, this county, this state, this country, this world, & perhaps even in this universe who believe it is alright, in fact even their duty & god given right to violate the rights of others, especially others. In this case I'm referring to the privilege of "free speech" regardless of whether or not anyone else likes the message. In our country, the good old US of A, free speech takes many forms: our national flag - Old Glory, the Stars & Stripes Forever, the Red White & Blue - a symbol of all we, at our very core, believe about ourselves & our country; slogans such as "Uncle Sam Needs You", "Proud to be an American", "Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You"; political signs expressing our belief in a particular direction of our country's future - "protect your right to vote"; statues large & small symbolizing varying points of view - "take this & shove it"; pebbles on a gravestone showing respect for someone long gone - "gone but not forgotten".

After years of debate, when speech was not free, America's Founding Brothers wrote our Constitution. One of the most important freedoms to them was "free speech". The First Amendment of our US Constitution places 'free speech' first because without it none of our other rights in the US Constitution are truly possible. When free speech is violated it's like cutting out someone's tongue or cutting off their writing hand or even taking away their 'smartfone'. Taking away someone's free speech is a slap in the face, a punch in the gut, a stab in the back to every American who has fought &/or died for our country and all the good things it represents to us & people all over this world.

Civics isn't taught in school any more. I don't know why. Maybe people would again learn to appreciate and respect and perhaps hold sacred the rights & privileges we all share as Americans. There are some Americans who have no pride in the privilege of being citizens of the USA. You have to spend time in another country or even try to cross our country's borders to know how lucky we are to be Americans & to have the First Amendment - Free Speech. Free speech is the spirit, the quintessence of American individuality. When that is stolen from someone it sucks the life out of them like some ghoul lurking in the shadows of a moonlit night stealing souls.

So we come to God & Country - another way of freely expressing our beliefs. I used to think the Ten Commandments were to keep us from hurting other people. One day while in our garden, I had a revelation -- those

10 commandments are to keep us from hurting ourselves. So with the Ten Commandments & the Constitution's Amendments we should be able to treat others fairly & not run roughshod over everyone else just because it's easy to get away with it. Thieves never seem to do their activities with an audience. Does that mean they know they are doing something wrong? When these humanoids reflect on or perhaps revel in what they have done, do they brag about their actions with family & friends or do they hide/destroy/sell the evidence of their misdeeds and shame? It seems stealing away someone's freedom of speech and opinions is a coup, something to really be proud of - in this town anyway.

TreSaw

*One who saw the tree falling in the forest.
(but couldn't see the thieves for the forest)*

Council Meeting

- staff reporter

Thursday, August 21st 2014 the council met, and was called to order at 3:32 PM to a sparse crowd.

There were two additions to the agenda – approval of purchase of one new police vehicle, and the closing of 11th street for a Monster Truck run. Both items were moved to New Business.

Citizens Concerns

Teresa Kolibaba – asked about the Mayor's Report listing a meet at Bandon Dunes with Dave Bassett, Port Commissioner, and Jim Seely of WRCA and what they have to do with our 'visioning' of Port Orford? (The mayor would not respond – even when prompted by Councilor Clancy.) She then asked if he received any kind of tax breaks or other compensation for these trips. (Again, no response) **Jim Kuhn**, Planning commissioner – Asked the council to approve the commission's request to remove Gary Roberts as commissioner due to lack of attendance. Also they had made two motions – one for removal, and one to allow Mr. Robertson to resign. They also had 'conflict of interest' concerns about an applicant, Wayne Richards, spouse of the City Admin, Terri, and also in the building and real estate trades. **Pat Rice** – Had questions on the minutes and the proper reporting thereof, and wondered about the wording changes of the ROW to a license when historically it has always been a permitted instrument. **Steve Lawton**, OSU – Very concerned that the 'visioning process' be conducted openly and transparently, and that having it conducted by Mr Seely and the WRCA – benefactors to the result – would not accomplish this, and suggested there were other options with 3rd party entities like the Oregon

Cities organization, etc. Mr Lawton asked "Why did you go to Bandon Dunes to have this meeting?" (No Response from the mayor, and things)

Dorene Ames – Was concerned about the dates of the 'visioning' resolution, and why it had to be that exact date and time, as it coincidentally conflicts with the Curry County Planning review of the Pacific Gales golf course plans, which Mr. Seely and the WRCA are a part of. **Mary Jane LaBelle** – Asked the council to approve the request for the ambulance bay outside wall to be repainted, as it was "in the lease" and the city's responsibility for upkeep.

Departmental Reports

Admin – Council President Pogwizd was pleased that the 31% water loss rate was the lowest he has seen it in many years, obviously due to the recent leak repairs – kudos to the crew! Councilor Clancy recanted that the engineering presentation was optimistic, and that for \$3million a Phase I minimum fix could be done. The admin piped up that she had just received an email about a newly available grant to apply for. **Finance**, nothing for Mr. '11%' today. **Police**, Chief Marvin Combs has resigned to retire, last day September 26th. At the moment we have a 4 man police force until he retires, and Gary Rose will be retiring in December. [Ed: I really hope the admin has done her due diligence and has those PERS issues straightened out by now.] Traffic control and citations are up [Ed: All those tourists from the country music festival helped, I'm guessing], and he is currently working on a property line dispute and a noise complaint about the CCR garbage collection in the wee hours. He received accolades from Councilors Pogwizd, Clancy, Billings and MacLeod. **Planning** – Councilor Clancy stated they had sent in an incomplete report as there was no mention of the motions Mr Kuhn brought up, or the discussions otherwise. Councilors Clancy and Billings asked the attorney if their motions stand concerning removal of a member – the attorney stated that they did not have the power to remove or add members, the council is the only body that can perform that function. **Mayor** – Went to Oregon Mayor's meeting on a grant, "just trying to do tourism promotion". The mayor went on to explain that the meeting at Bandon Dunes with Mr Seely was run by Dave Bassett, Port Commissioner, and was to discuss "joint visioning about the new VMEC and possibly also port buildings". Interrupting council, Dave Bassett jumped up to add that this was all needed because the progress on the proposed new visitor's center (VMEC) has basically stopped. He added that the dates picked for this 'Visioning' were arbitrary and done by

others [Ed: Mr Seely, me thinks], and that the Port Commission did agree to meet, but not to a resolution.

Liason Reports

School – No report

Chamber/TLT – No Report

Fire Board – Councilor Clancy reported they were reviewing the city contract.

Parks – Council President Pogwizd reported the gazebo is finished, the dog park is being discussed as well as the leash law recommendations.

Watershed/Health – No report

Port/RedFish Rocks – Dredging is now complete, 45K cubic yards of sand was removed from the channel.

Curry County did not have a representative present to report.

New Business

Right Of Way (ROW) permit request review – Councilor Clancy suggested that the current process was flawed and that we should go back to the old way – through the planning commission, then final approval by council. Currently there is no review by others until its done, and has shown to be problematic. Councilor Billings, “Let go back”. Council President Pogwizd stated there needs to be more awareness and transparency in the process. Councilor MacCleod, “Go back to the old ways.” McArdle would go with whatever the other wanted, Schofield “Doesn’t care”. The mayor asked Jim Kuhns, planning commissioner, if he agreed with the extra work, he said “yes”. The attorney added that when the permit came before the planning commission the public works and other departments would be notified at that time, and could then make their concerns known. Councilor Clancy motioned that the ROW process be changed (2nd by Billings) to 1) Planning commission approval followed by 2) Public works/Police/Admin review with 3) Final approval by the City Council. The motion passed 5 to 1, McCordle NO.

Resolution 2015-02 for a Joint Workshop to establish a Visioning Process – The mayor took it upon himself at this time to remove this item from the agenda, stating he would bring it back later to “just hosting the workshop”. No votes, no action.

At this time Councilor Clancy excused herself from the meeting due to personal reasons. The council continued on without her, one man short.

Approval of Police Vehicle purchase – Dave ‘11%’ Johnson reported that the vehicle will cost \$38K, with a USDA grant matching one-to-one, with our final purchase of one more car we will end up with 3 cars for the price of two [Ed: Why exactly do we need all these new cars for our one mile corridor they patrol]. Council President Pogwizd motioned to

approve the purchase of the vehicle with review of the contract by counsel, 2nd by Schofield, motion passed 5/0.

Repainting of Ambulance Bay outside wall – City Admin was unprepared, stated she had no idea this was coming. So, she will have to get a bid and revisit this next meeting.

Closing of 11th Street on August 31st

– Councilor Billings made the request, stating they apologized for this late request, but the Monster Truck event just became available and would be a great asset to the events that day. He made a motion to close the street from 6:30AM to 3:30 PM August 31st, (2nd McArdle), motion passed 4/1 – Schofield NO.

Consent Calendar – The item appointing Wayne Richards to Planning was removed for separate consideration. Motion was made to accept balance by Councilor Billings (2nd Schofield), passed 5/1 – Schofield NO.

Appointment of Wayne Richards to Planning Commission – Motion from Councilor Billings (2nd Schofield), passed 5/0.

Citizens Considerations

Teresa Kolibaba went to the survival seminar – learned how to start a fire, also wondered about the legal difference in a permit vs. a license now that the ROW has been redefined. Attorney stated “no real difference” [Ed: the courts might not completely agree]. She also asked if the Planning Commission position had been properly advertised. The admin stated “it was supposed to be in the PON, but there had been some issues getting it done by Matt” and she was unable to verify if it had ever been done correctly. [Ed: so much for the ‘paper of record’] **Pat Rice** had questions about the corrected minutes, and why they weren’t listed as such, and that ROWs have historically been permits.

Dorene Ames brought up an issue with the planning ordinance in that it includes verbiage to the effect “anyone that does not own land in the city cannot be on the commission”. The attorney stated he would have to seriously review the ordinances and get back to them. **Bob Clifford** asked where the posting was for the Water meeting? He also asked why the city documents were not being placed at the library as he had talked to Tobe Porter, librarian, and they were fine with it. Beverly, the recorder, said the library did not want it. Mr Clifford asked again where is the transparency here when we cannot get rightful access to city documents. **Carlene Armi** asked about her complaint she filed 4 months ago about a fence placed illegally on city property. Several people have been out to measure things, why is the fence still there? The admin stated that the Chief and public works had been out to the site and were “still working on it”. Council

President Pogwizd asked if an ROW had been issued or requested, the admin said she was unaware of any, and then asked “should I send a letter to have it removed?” **Tyson Rasor** (who arrived very late to the meeting) asked if he could make his ‘oort cloud’ report, and the mayor suggested he come back on another day.

Staff Considerations

Admin asked legal counsel to verify when an ordinance becomes effective, like the ROW changes. The attorney said “immediately”. [Ed: with previous experience as a city administrator we would have thought she should know that already, don’t you?]

Councilor Considerations

Councilor Billings said Parks would like to ask for an official logo for the city to use on signs and such.

The Mayor had nothing more to report, and things.

Ray's Ripoff

– staff reporter

Have you noticed your grocery bill dramatically increasing this summer, especially if you have been shopping at Ray’s Food Place. Apparently the corporate policy is to raise their prices to pay for their bankruptcy at our expense.

Well, luckily, we do have options. We did a test and bought \$100 in groceries from McKay’s/Price’nPride in Bandon. We bought exact items, or equivalent quality items. We saved over \$20 on this one trip – more than enough to cover the gas costs, and enough left over for an ice cream cone at the Cheese Factory.

We also have the Azure Standard truck that comes through once a month and drops off at the Co-Op. They offer organic bulk as well as a wide variety of organic packaged items.

The point here is that over the many years C&K has been doing business in our town we have supported them through hard times and the good. They no longer seem to appreciate or reciprocate what we have done.

It’s time to move on, and leave Ray’s to rot in their own corporate mess. They no longer deserve our dollars.

Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of the truth...

– Albert Einstein

Notice

All submissions to the *Port Orford Free Press* must be made by email, in text only format – all other forms will be rejected.

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